



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/501,682	02/02/2005	Paul G Shiels	0380-P03437US0	4505
110	7590	01/27/2006	EXAMINER	
DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN 1601 MARKET STREET SUITE 2400 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307			LIETO, LOUIS D	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1632		
DATE MAILED: 01/27/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/501,682	SHIELS, PAUL G	
	Examiner Louis D. Lieto	Art Unit	1632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-35 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-4,7-10,28,29,31,32 drawn to a method of screening donor tissues for predisposition to rejection by determining the expression level of at least one endogenous telomere-binding protein.

Group II, claim(s) 5,30, drawn to drawn to a method of screening donor tissues for predisposition to rejection by determining the expression level of at least two endogenous telomere-binding proteins.

Group III, claim(s) 6, drawn to drawn to a method of screening donor tissues for predisposition to rejection by determining the expression level of at least three endogenous telomere-binding proteins.

Group IV, claim(s) 11-14, drawn to a kit for screening donor tissues for predisposition to rejection by determining the expression level of at least one endogenous telomere-binding protein.

Group V, claim(s) 15-17,20-22, drawn to a method of treatment of donor tissues to reduce the risk of rejection.

Group VI, claim(s) 18,19,33-35, drawn to a method of treatment of donor tissues to reduce the risk of rejection, further comprising treating the tissue with an agent to prevent tissue senescence or cell death

Group VII, claim(s) 24,25, drawn to a non-human mammalian donor tissue

Group VIII, claim(s) 26,27, drawn to a method of assessing tissue damage comprising detecting the accumulation of cytological markers of tissue stress.

Art Unit: 1632

If applicant elects any of groups I, IV, V, or VI for prosecution, applicant is further required to select a specific telomere binding protein from those listed in the claims. This is a **RESTRICTION BY ELECTION** requirement and is NOT an election of species.

The inventions listed as Groups I- VIII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Inventions I- VIII lack a unifying special technical feature. GB 2321642 A (08.05.1998), discloses a non-human mammalian tissue, from a transgenic animal, in which the expression of a telomere binding protein (telomerase reverse transcriptase subunit, TRT) has been enhanced (see pages 167-169). Reagents for determining the level of expression of a telomere binding protein, including PCR primers for the detection of mRNA, are known for telomere binding proteins whose sequences are disclosed in the reference of GB 2321642 A.

Since the claimed subject matter was known from the prior art document of GB 2321642 A the subject matters of claims 1-22, 24-35 are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (Rule 13.1 PCT) as they appear not to be linked by a new and inventive common special technical feature in the sense of Rule 13.2 PCT by taking into account the state of the art.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Lou Lieto whose telephone number is (571) 272-2932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9am-5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Ram Shukla can be reached on (571) 272-0735. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300. Information

Art Unit: 1632

regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the PAIR can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Dr. Louis D. Lieto
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1632

Deborah Crouch
DEBORAH CROUCH
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1800/1630